Scunthorpe.
Doncaster.
Jan 4. 15th 1897.

Sir

Herewith I beg to hand you my report, on the health of Scunthorpe, for the year 1896, as required by the Local Government Board's Order dated March 1891, Art. 18. (sec. 14).

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your obedient servant

M. R. J. Behrendt.

M. O. H.

To

Joseph Fletcher, Esqre, J.P.

Chairman of the Scunthorpe Urban District Council.

Sixth Annual Report on the Health of the Scunthorpe Urban Distrct (1896.)

Infectious and Zymotic Diseases.

A. Notifiable. — The register of notifications contains 33 entries. The diseases notified being: —

Scarlatina — 19 cases. These occurred in the months of January, March, June, August, September, October & November. As will be seen from tab. A. There were no deaths.

Diphtheria — 3 cases were reported one each in January, February & September.

Croup (membranous) — one case was registered, & ended in death.

Enteric Fever — 3 cases occurred in Frodingham Road, all members of the same family.

Erysipelas — 12 notifications were received. Some of these came from place with obviously defective sanitary surroundings.

B. Not Notifiable. —

Diarrhoea. — Only 3 deaths have been registered as due to this, as against 12 in the previous year. All were of infants under a year old.

Influenza — cases of this disease continue to occur; & the registrar's returns attribute to it 1 death. I dont think there has been so much of this disease as in the year preceding.

Phthisis — has been the cause of 2 deaths. There was also registered 1 death from Tuberculosis.

Pneumonia — 7 deaths; 5 were adults & 2 children, one of the latter had suffered from Erysipelas, Pneumonia supervening three days before death.

Measles — made its appearance in the district during the last quarter of the year & spread with considerable rapidity. Many cases would not require a doctor's help & the disease not being notifiable there would be absolutely no control over the infected homes, & the spreading of infection. (I am glad however to say that in several instances parents have thought it worth their while to give me notice in writing of cases in their families, whilst others called me in to verify their opinions as to the nature of the illness in their homes) Under these circumstances the congregating of children in schools furnishes the most ready means of diffusing infection and of this there was good evidence. I therefore wrote to the Chairman of the Council & advised the closure of the Public Elementary Schools, & suggested that the closing of the Sunday Schools, if obtainable,

would greatly assist in checking further extension. The managers of these schools to whom the Chairman wrote, very readily assented to the proposed measure & closed the schools under their care. — From tab. A will be seen that 3 children under 5 years old died of Measles.

Whooping Cough — appeared in the district about the same time as Measles & spread very rapidly. 3 deaths were recorded as due to it. During the last quarter when Measles & Whooping Cough invaded the place, there were also 7 deaths of children from Bronchitis & Broncho-Pneumonia. Some of these probably represent concomitants of Measles, & a modified Whooping Cough. Cases were observed where the cough had something of the paroxysmal character of the latter, but where the whoop was so imperfectly developed as to make it impossible to decide, if they really were Whooping Cough or not.

Neither of the two last named diseases being notifiable accurate information as to the numbers of cases of each cannot be given. The following, for which I am indebted to the kindness of the Revd. E. Akenhead, Vicar of the Parish, gives the best available information: Out of a total of 350 girls, the attendance in that department of the school fell to 223; out of 413 infants the fall was to 129; whilst in the boys' department the decline was from 296 to 194. This decline was in no case reached at once, but was steadily continuous. The infants' department, the most prone to suffer, therefore shewed a falling off of almost 300.

Prevention of Disease. — Premises, where infectious disease was reported to exist, were visited. So far as possible, the sick were separated from the healthy. School attendance from infected houses was prohibited, & children kept from attending school until it was reasonable to consider them free from infection.

Inspection of the District. — Systematic inspections & also special inspections when necessary were made. Mr. Cobbaw has furnished me with a report of the work done in his department. This report I append. It shews well the amount & character of the work, & contains some valuable suggestions. — On our rounds of inspection yards in Trafford Street, Park Street, Princess Street & Elm Cottages were found in so bad a condition as to give rise to nuisance, these by order of the Council were to be asphalted or otherwise paved & rendered impervious to water. Where completed the work has been satisfactorily done, & should add much to the healthiness of those places, & the comfort of their inhabitants. As a result of the year's work, I can congratulate the Council on further general improvement in the sanitary condition of the district, & this will be much advanced when the private street works will have been carried out; for many of these streets not only present a disgraceful appearance, but by reason of their excessive wetness, are a danger more especially to the health of the children who live there.

Statistical. — The total estimated Area of the district is 1041 acres, & the number of Inhabited Houses is about 963.

The Population estimated by the usual method, & to the middle of the year is

4563. I believe this estimate is considerably under the Truth. In my report for 1892 I shewed that the number of persons to each house was on an avarage 5·4, & this I do not think has lessened. The number of inhabited houses being 963 & the number of persons to each house 5·4, the population should be 5200, & this I believe is near the truth.

The Births registered during the year amounted to 229; boys 115, girls 114.

The Deaths in the same time were 68; males 29, females 39.

Of infants under one year old there died 29.

The Birth Rate for the year was therefore 50·1; & the

Death Rate 14·9 per 1000 of population.

The Infantile Mortality (Deaths of children under 1 year old to 1000 births) was 126·6. In my last report the number of deaths was given as 85, & the death rate as 19·6 per 1000. These figures require correction, for owing to Tardy registration, 1 death was passed on to the 1st quarter of this year. Making the correction the figures for last year were: Deaths 86 & Death Rate 19·8. — The subjoined figures facilitate comparison with each other of the six years 1891 to 1896.

Year	Births	Birth Rate	Deaths	Death Rate	Population
1891	140	39·2	65	18·2	3512
— 2	154	40·5	45	11·8	3794
— 3	170	43·2	61	15·5	3929
— 4	196	47·4	60	14·5	4130
— 5	199	45·8	86	19·8	4341
— 6	229	50·1	68	14·9	4563

The above shews a considerable increase last year in the number of births & birth-rate, and a gratifying decline in the number of deaths & death rate; the population also having increased.

To compare with each other the past six years in respect of mortality at the six age periods adopted in Tab. A & also infantile mortality the subjoined table will serve.

	Ages in periods of years.						(Deaths under 1 yr
Year	Under 1 yr	1 u. 5 yrs	5 u. 15 yrs	15 u. 25 yrs	25 u. 65 yrs	65 yrs & over	to 1000 births
1891	27	5	6	3	14	10	193
— 2	26	6	0	2	9	2	169
— 3	22	16	0	5	11	7	129
— 4	28	11	1	0	15	5	143
— 5	40	8	0	8	22	8	201
— 6	29	12	2	1	15	9	126·6

The above shows that the decrease in mortality affects chiefly the two age periods: under 1 year, and, 15 & under 25 years; the fall in the former being chiefly due to the absence of fatal diarrhoea, & in the latter of phthisis.

Concluding Remarks. — The health of the district during the year 1896 seems to have been good. During the three first quarters this seems to have been especially the case. The deaths amounted to 14, 14 & 16 in each quarter successively. In the 3d quarter the slight increase must be held due to fatal diarrhoea. In the last quarter of the year the number of deaths increased to 24, & all of these belong to the months of November & December, when Measles & Whooping Cough were spreading rapidly. Perhaps it is rather unprofitable to speculate now on what might have been the mortality, had the district remained free from these epidemic complaints, yet I think it interesting enough to make the calculation, which shews that the number of deaths might have been no greater than 59 instead of 68 during the year. Doubtless in time the measures to be taken to prevent the spreading of infectious diseases will be improved, & notification of all made compulsory, till then Measles & Whooping Cough will have an unguarded door whereby to enter & every facility to spread & do their worst amidst the susceptible portion of the population.

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your obedient Servant
M. R. J. Behrendt.
M. O. H.

January 1897

Scunthorpe.
January 1897.

To
M. R. J. Behrendt, Esq^re
M. O. H.

Dear Sir

At your request I herewith hand you a report of the work done in my department during 1896.

I am
Dear Sir
Yours Truly
Alexander MacDonald (Cobban)
Inspector of Nuisances & Surveyor.

Report of the Inspector & Surveyor (March 26th to Dec^r 31st 1896)

Statistical – The total area of Scunthorpe Urban District is estimated at 1041 acres. At the beginning of the year the number of inhabited houses was about 877. During my tenure of office from March 26th to Dec^r 31st there have been completed & certified for habitation 86 new houses. Plans have also been examined & passed for 75 dwelling houses, & for other buildings 15. The total number of inhabited houses is 963.

Scavenging & Refuse Removal – All the privy boxes I have caused to be periodically disinfected by the Councils men, who have accompanied the contracting scavenger when necessary. Difficulties have been experienced in the removal of household refuse, although assistance has been given to the contracting scavenger in carrying out his duties, until some definite scheme is drawn up regulating the removal of dust, ashes, & other household refuse, these difficulties are likely to recur. The scavenger's contract does not provide for the removal of trade refuse, & such should therefore be excluded from the vessels for household refuse. These vessels should also be of a suitable size & construction. The following regulations would be useful: – A. All householders to provide proper bins of wood or metal, fitted with covers & handles, & so place them as to be readily removed. B. The internal dimensions of the bins not to exceed 2 ft. x 2 ft x 1 ft 6 in. C. Only dry household refuse to be put into the bins. D. The contractor to be responsible for the prompt removal & emptying of the bins.

Street Disinfecting. – I had made for me a soluble block of disinfectant for use in the water cart, where slowly dissolving it was diffused over the streets, giving a pleasant sense of freshness to the air. The occasional use of such blocks should prove beneficial & inexpensive.

Workshops, Factories & Slaughter Houses. – These have had constant supervision, & all are now, I believe, registered. No less than 276 visits have been made

There are 4 Bakeries, 27 Workshops, & 5 Slaughter houses.

Inspections &c. — 2477 inspections of premises were made. The number of special inspections of nuisances, on complaint, was 67. As a result considerable improvment has been made in the District. Yards have been cleansed and paved, unhealthy dwellings have been improved, & the last of the objectionable vault privies have been or are about to be converted into box closets. 76 visits to places where infectious disease was notified have been made. — The articles of food exposed for sale in the public market have so far been satisfactory.

Notices Served to abate Nuisances. — Under bye-laws 12, sec. 2 steps were taken in six cases to remove nuisances from pig-keeping, Wet & insanitary surrounding of dwellings, & courtyards have been dealt with in 40 cases. Orders were served on 6 property owners to asphalt or otherwise pave yards. 2 notices "To shew cause why houses should not be declared unfit for habitation" affecting in all 10 houses were served. The time for 1 has not yet expired. In the other cases the work was done satisfactorily. — Bye-Law 14, sec. 2 has called for enforcement in 8 cases, whilst steps were taken in 2 cases of overcrowding. Orders to put up water spouts were served in 2 cases. A number of other cases were done on mentioning the matter to the owners concerned. 2 cases of smoke-nuisance were abated. My own formal notices, I have served in 37 cases, & the total number of orders served is 93.

Dairies & Milkshops. — I believe there are now several milkshops in the district, that cows are also kept for dairy purposes, & that a register of such milk sellers & dairies should be prepared to enable due & regular inspection of them.

Sewers and Sewerage. — Very little difficulty has been experienced with the sewerage of the Town. The flushing chambers have been used frequently to flush the sewers. The only main sewerage done was the continuation of the Frodingham Road Sewer to pick up the sewer put in by Mr. Parkinson in the 10ft. road at the rear of Alexandra Street in all 100 yards of 12 inch sanitary pipe sewer.

An abstract of the work is appended.

Alexander Macdonald Cobban.

Abstract of the work done in the Inspector's Department.

March 26th 1896 to Dec.r 31st 1896.

Inspections of buildings in course of erection	615
" special, on complaint of nuisance	67
" ordinary	2477
" of Workshops, Bakeries, & Slaughterhouses	276
" " articles of food	19
Letters written & posted	119
Houses completed & certificates of habitation given	86
Plans for Dwelling houses passed	75
" " " returned for amendment	19
" " " rejected	7
" " other buildings passed	15
" " " " returned for amendment	4
" " " " rejected	4
" " Streets passed	3
Clerk's orders served:	
To abate nuisance from pigs	6
" " " " yards in wet and insanitary condition (to 40 houses)	8
" " " " defective privies	16
" " " " overcrowding	2
To shew cause why houses should not be declared unfit for habitation (10 houses)	2
To cut and plash fences	1
" put up waterspouts	2
" provide receptacles for manure	8
Inspector's orders served to abate various nuisances	27
" " " " remove accumulations & manure	10

Alexander MacDonald Cobban.
Inspector of Nuisances & Surveyor.

Scunthorpe.
January 1897.

Gentlemen

As Medical Officer of Health, I forward you the annual report for the year 1896.

The tables of Births, Deaths, & Sickness, compiled in accordance with the instructions of the Local Government Board, are enclosed, for your inspection.

By these tables you will see, that the total number of Deaths, registered during last year amounted to 28. 16 Males & 12 Females, two of these being visitors are excluded in my calculations. Taking then the estimated population of the district as 3100. the general death rate is 8.4 per 1000.

Of the deaths under 5 years of age there were 10. Of those over 5 years of age there were 16. Of deaths under 1 year there were 7. and over 65 years there were 12.

The total number of Births registered was 69. 26 Boys and 43 Girls. making the birthrate 22.2 per 1000.

With regard to Zymotic diseases, the fact that there has been but one case reported, and that an isolated one, is the best proof of the general Sanitary condition of the district.

Since the last report a systematic house to house inspection has been undertaken. The Infectious Diseases Prevention Act has been adopted. The collection of Ashes, hitherto done by contract has been taken in hand by the Council, and is now regularly and systematically carried out. The inefficiency of the disinfecting Chamber, and the unsanitary condition of the Boys School alluded to in the last report, have been amended

I am &c.

Herbert W Rowse